

since 1993 and as Acting United States Trade Representative for the last 9 months. I am confident she will make an excellent United States Trade Representative. I urge the Congress to take prompt and favorable action on this legislation.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, January 7, 1997.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mrs. THURMAN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mrs. THURMAN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

TIME TO SOLVE THE NATION'S PROBLEMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. FOLEY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I am, in fact, delighted to be the first person to give special orders, and obviously the gentleman from California [Mr. DREIER] was scheduled to be, but he is presiding in the chair.

I had the great fortune as a freshman Member of the 104th Congress to be the first to deliver a 1-minute speech on this floor. I return to Congress very proud that the members of the 16th District have chosen to ask me to serve them once again in this very high honor in the U.S. Congress.

We had a lot of debate today, a lot of acrimony, a lot of discussion about the future of this Congress and its Speaker. We have concluded that debate with reelecting NEWT GINGRICH, the gentleman from Georgia, as Speaker.

I implore Members on all sides of the aisle, both sides of the aisle, that it is now time to come together, in the spirit of this country, in the pride of this Nation, to start solving our Nation's problems, to start solving our Nation's ills, to focus on things that will make people's lives better rather than focusing on things that will destroy people's individual lives. This Chamber and this Government is bigger than this Member, it is bigger than the Speaker, it is bigger than anybody else's ego. It is about helping Americans help themselves. It is about instilling in our children a knowledge and a wisdom that through hard work, you can overcome any adversity.

But if this Chamber operates much like it did in the 104th Congress, with bitterness and rancor and personal animosity, we will not set an example for the future leaders of this Nation. We will not set an example for children to

look up to this body and say, "I, too, would like to be a leader in the Congress. I, too, would like to serve my community." We will denigrate into an embarrassment.

So I ask my fellow Members, from all walks of life, from all localities, to think first about what is good for America, not what is good for the Republican Party or the Democratic Party, what is good for this Nation. A balanced budget, saving our Nation from fiscal crisis. The education of our children, to prepare them for the 21st century, to prepare them with skills that will give them jobs that will allow them to provide for themselves and their families.

To reach beyond partisanship, in a spirit of cooperation, to fight together against crime that threatens every American, crime in our schools, violence against our teachers, crimes in our malls and in our communities that frighten our citizens, regardless whether they be seniors or young adults. To work together on Medicare fraud and abuse, and save our Medicare Program so that we will have a system that ensures that every American will receive Medicare when they grow to the day to need it.

Let us also cause special focus on the illnesses that hurt our American citizens: AIDS, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, cancer, leukemia, tuberculosis, to name but a few. Sudden infant death syndrome, to name another. If we would use our energies to focus our resources through the National Institutes of Health to try and find cures for these diseases, we will do more for humanity in this Chamber, we will do more for the future of this world and this Nation than any 5-minute speech or any special order or any rancor or debate.

This Nation has given 435 individuals the chance to represent their communities. I know that the Members are up to the task of facing that challenge. I know that each Member, regardless of their party, deeply loves this Nation.

But I also know that if we proceed in the 105th as we did in the 104th with gridlock, acrimony, personal attack, and negativity, that none of the successes will be possible. We will be mired in failure, mired in debate that is nonproductive. So I ask in this first day of the new Congress that we join together to make every citizen proud of the conduct of each individual Member and all Members of this House; that the Democrats join me in working with Speaker GINGRICH, in assuring that the Speakership is respected, that the institution of governance of the House of Representatives is brought to the highest standard, and that we work together for all of the best interests of this Nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon [Ms. FURSE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. FURSE addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

□ 1800

ELECTION OF THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE: A HISTORIC DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOLEY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. GEKAS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, we have heard several allusions throughout the day of the nature of the historic event in which we participated, the election of the Speaker of the House for the 105th session. That is more than rhetoric, Mr. Speaker.

Have Members ever heard of the name of Jonathan Dayton? Jonathan Dayton of New Jersey was elected Speaker of the House in the fifth session in 1797. So when we say today's event was historical, we really mean it. It is a repetition of the preservation of our liberties that emanated from the first and second terms of George Washington and the Fifth Congress, which marked his exit from public service, and has run down to today, when we repeated the process in the preservation of those same liberties which they fought so hard to create for us in the first place.

So the message for the day for our constituents is that the election of the Speaker today is a purely political process. When we say "political process," that does not demean it, because many in the world today will say, he is a politician, or he is involved in politics, denoting the worst in humanity. But the preservation of our liberties to which I have made reference, beginning with the First Congress and then reendorsed in the Fifth Congress and here today in the 105th, became part and parcel of our history because of the political process it involves.

So we had the spectacle today of the minority Democrats nominating their favorite son while the Republicans chose to nominate the gentleman from Georgia, Mr. GINGRICH. What happened? Through the political process, GINGRICH has been elected Speaker of the House. We should honor that. It is the duty and right of the majority to select one of its own to lead the agenda for the ensuing Congress, and we have done so. Now it is time to put everything aside and proceed with that very same agenda.

I also want to comment on some other part of the proceedings here today that was very important but very likely accepted by the general public, because we have not made it clear. When we established the rules of the House, and the gentleman from California [Mr. DREIER, alluded to it in his prefatory remarks during the debate on the rules, we were reendorsing, reconfirming here today, historically what the 104th Congress under the majority Republicans was able to fashion; and the 104th Congress, one step of which, in which I was personally involved and of which I am very proud, is the elimination of proxy voting in committee.